

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response the Office Action mailed on June 12, 2008.

Claims 24, 29, and 40-59 are currently pending in this application, with claim 24 and 29 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action includes a rejection to claim 41.

In response, claim 24 includes a communications lighting apparatus having an **illumination light source (4)** adapted to emit illumination light and an information-transmitting unit (5) adapted to emit an optical signal, wherein said information-transmitting unit (5) has light sources (52, 53), a light beam from **one of said light sources (52, 53)** being emitted independent of a light beam from **another of said light sources (52, 53)**.

Claim 41 is drawn to a communications system according to claim 24, further comprising a **third light source unit (9)** adapted to emit a visible light beam.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action includes a rejection to claim 47.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 47 has been amended.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 24, 43-52, 57, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu).

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 29 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of “*Newton’s Telecom Dictionary*” (Newton).

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,218,466 (Brooks).

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 53 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of “*Optical Networks*” (Ramaswami).

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claim 55 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of “*Optical Networks*” (Ramaswami) and “*Hot New Beam May Zap Bandwidth Bottleneck*” (Service).

Paragraph 9 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claim 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of “*Optical Networks*” (Ramaswami) and “*Hot New Beam May Zap Bandwidth Bottleneck*” (Service).

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/25842 (Dowling) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,589 (Hiramatsu), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,198,230 (Leeb).

These rejections are traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claim 24 - Claim 24 is drawn to a communications system comprising:

a communications lighting apparatus having an illumination light source adapted to emit illumination light and an information-transmitting unit adapted to emit an optical signal,

wherein said information-transmitting unit has light sources, a light beam from one of said light sources being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources, and

wherein said information-transmitting unit is mounted on said illumination light source.

Figure 4B of the specification as originally filed is provided hereinbelow.

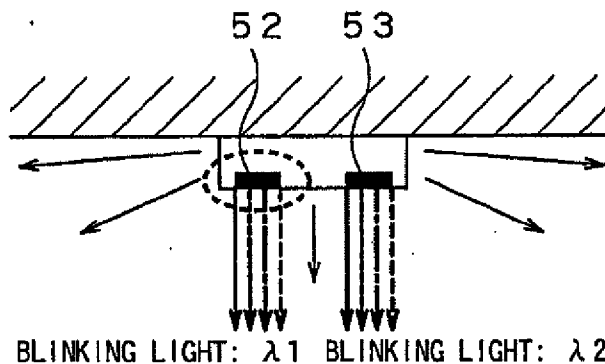


FIG. 4B

Claim 24 includes a communications lighting apparatus having an illumination light source (4) adapted to emit illumination light and an information-transmitting unit (5) adapted to emit an optical signal,

wherein said information-transmitting unit (5) has light sources (52, 53), a light beam from one of said light sources (52, 53) being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources (52, 53).

Claim 29 - Claim 29 is drawn to a communications system comprising:

a communications lighting apparatus having an illumination light source adapted to emit illumination light and an information-transmitting unit adapted to emit an optical signal,

wherein said information-transmitting unit has light sources, a light beam from one of said light sources being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources, and

wherein said information-transmitting unit includes a recording medium and a reading section,

said reading section being adapted to read information stored in said recording medium,

said recording medium being removable from said information-transmitting unit.

Figure 3 of the specification is provided hereinbelow.

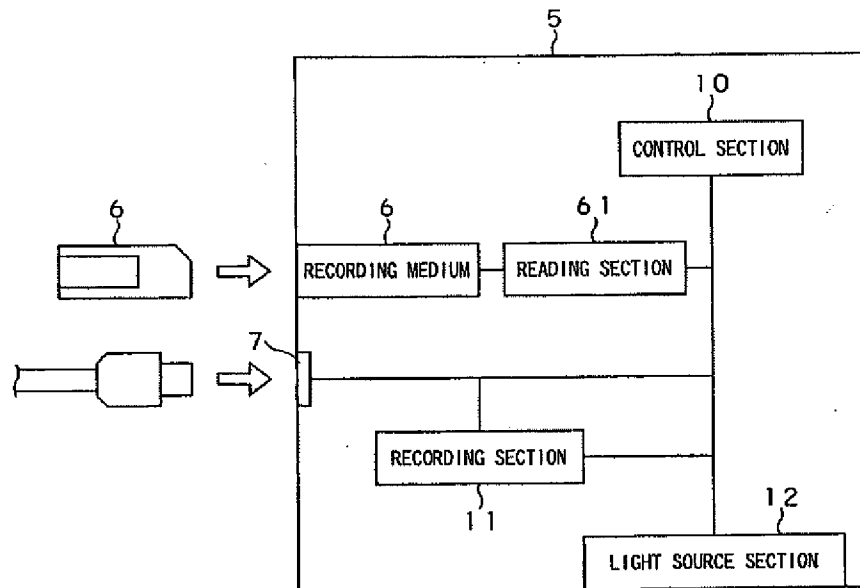


FIG. 3

Dowling - Figure 5 of Dowling is provided hereinbelow.

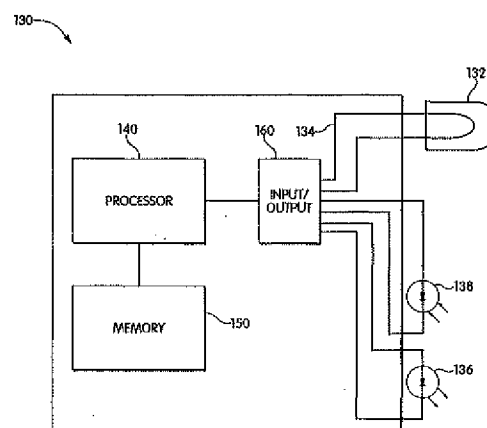


Fig. 5

The Office Action contend the presence within Figure 5 of Dowling of a communications lighting apparatus having an illumination light source (132) adapted to emit illumination light and an information-transmitting unit (136) adapted to emit an optical signal.

However, Figure 5 of Dowling fails to teach the alleged information-transmitting unit (136) as having light sources, wherein a light beam from one of the light sources is emitted independent of a light beam from another of the light sources.

- ***Thus, Figure 5 of Dowling fails to teach a communication system wherein said information-transmitting unit has light sources, a light beam from one of said light sources being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources.***

Moreover, Figure 5 of Dowling fails to teach the alleged information-transmitting unit (136) as being mounted on an illumination light source.

- ***Thus, Figure 5 of Dowling fails to teach a communication system wherein said information-transmitting unit is mounted on said illumination light source.***

Instead, the Office Action refers to Figure 7 of Dowling for the features that are absent from within Figure 5 of Dowling (Office Action at page 3).

Figure 7 of Dowling is provided hereinbelow.

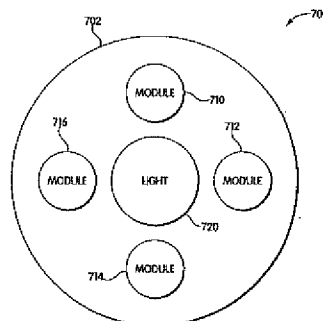


Fig. 7

Dowling arguably teaches that the modular lighting subsystem 700 may include a base 702 that forms a universal platform for a number of modules 710, 712, 714, 716 (Dowling at page 44, lines 16-17). Each module 710, 712, 714, 716 may fit into a cradle within the base 702, which may be any shape adapted to receive the module (Dowling at page 45, lines 4-5).

Dowling arguably teaches that the base 702 may include a light 720, such as an LED source or some other light source, and that the light 720 may form a discrete lighting area, such as a lens, within the base 702, or the base 702 may be formed of a diffusing material so that the light 720 provides illumination throughout the base 702 (Dowling at page 44, lines 18-21).

A first module 710 may provide power, and may include a battery or a converter for converting an external power source into a power source suitable for the lighting subsystem 700 (Dowling at page 45, lines 10-12).

A second module 712 may provide input/output, including a network interface such as a physical interface to an infrared or radio frequency network, and any network protocol stack required to form communication links between the lighting subsystem 700 and other nodes of a network (Dowling at page 45, lines 12-15).

A third module 714 may provide sensors such as microphones, temperature sensors, digital cameras, or, for example, any of the sensors discussed above (Dowling at page 45, lines 15-17).

A fourth module 716 may provide output devices such as a speaker, an LED or LCD display, additional lights or LED's, or some other output device (Dowling at page 45, lines 17-19).

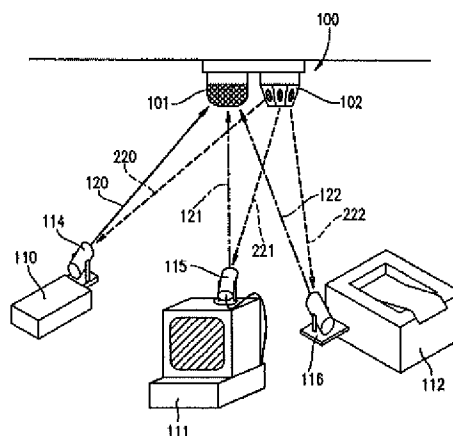
However, Dowling fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the fourth module 716 as having light sources, wherein a light beam from one of said light sources is emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources.

- ***Thus, Figure 7 of Dowling fails to teach a communication system wherein said information-transmitting unit has light sources, a light beam from one of said light sources being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources.***

Hiramatsu - Hiramatsu arguably teaches that in FIG. 1, the transmitter-receivers 114 through 116 transmit beams toward the imaging receiver 101 (Hiramatsu at column 5, lines 56-59).

Figure 1 of Hiramatsu is provided hereinbelow.

FIG. 1



- ***However, Hiramatsu fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a communications system wherein said information-transmitting unit is mounted on an illumination light source.***

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Brooks - Referring now to FIG. 3, Brooks arguably teaches a schematic diagram 300 of the components of the light apparatus 100 that includes the light sources 104 and 106 and the light detector 108 (Brooks at column 4, lines 10-13).

Nevertheless, Brooks fails to disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the light source 104 having light sources, wherein a light beam from one of the light sources is emitted independent of a light beam from another of the light sources.

Moreover, Brooks fails to disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the light source 106 having light sources, wherein a light beam from one of the light sources is emitted independent of a light beam from another of the light sources.

- *Thus, Brooks fails to teach a communication system wherein said information-transmitting unit has light sources, a light beam from one of said light sources being emitted independent of a light beam from another of said light sources.*

Leeb, Newton, Ramaswami and Service - *Leeb, Newton, Ramaswami and Service either individually or as a whole, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a communications system wherein said information-transmitting unit is mounted on an illumination light source.*

Moreover, Leeb, Newton, Ramaswami and Service either individually or as a whole, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a communications system wherein said information-transmitting unit is mounted on an illumination light source.

Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Therefore, this response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action.

Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action. An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees. If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: September 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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